

INDIANA BLACK EXPO, INC.

{SINCE 1970}

March 28, 2008

Dear Educator:

I am excited to announce that the Statewide Forum to Promote Cultural Competence in Education will be held on Friday, July 18, 2008 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Do not miss this opportunity to be an integral part of this unprecedented event! The Indiana Department of Education has partnered with Indiana Black Expo, Inc. (IBE) in this special endeavor to increase cross-cultural understanding and to help all of our children succeed in school.

Drs. Ruby Payne and Jawanza Kunjufu, both of whom are nationally renowned educators and authors of several publications, are the keynote speakers. Amongst her publications, Dr. Ruby Payne, native of Elkhart, Indiana, has authored *Framework for Understanding Poverty* which expounds on how hidden class rules must be mastered before teachers begin to connect with students from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, native of Chicago, Illinois, authored *An African Centered Response to Ruby Payne's Theory*, which challenges Dr. Payne's theories and points to teacher expectations, time on task, and the principal's leadership as factors he believes determines educational success. Other presenters will also conduct a variety of informative workshops that encompass cultural competence in the educational arena. A more detailed agenda will be posted on IBE's Web site by Friday, May 23, 2008. The closing workshop will cover goal setting and a roundtable will be established for subsequent follow up on goals and to share best practices for different schools across the state.

The goal is to have each school corporation in the State of Indiana represented at the forum. IBE will provide special recognition to the school corporation that registers the most individuals. We are challenging each school corporation to become a partner by sending a minimum of twenty-five individuals (staff personnel or board members) to the forum. Each partner will receive the following benefits: (1) professional development for its staff that will substantially benefit its educational community; (2) valuable networking with professional peers, (3) recognition during the opening welcome; (4) school corporation logo listed on the program; (5) school corporation logo and link on IBE Web site; and, (6) advertisement in the Summer Celebration event guide that is distributed to more than 50,000 individuals.

To cover the costs of the forum, the early bird registration fee is **\$99 before Friday, May 23rd**. It includes continental breakfast, a boxed lunch and workshop materials. After this date, the fee will be \$125 per person. Space is limited, so please send your registration in early to save.

If you have any questions about the forum, please contact Kara Endsley at (317) 923-3045 or kendsley@indianablackexpo.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Yours truly,



Tanya Bell
President and CEO
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.